



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue #16

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

27 August 2009

*****LAST REMINDER FOR EDISTO FALL FIELD DAY*****

Exactly 1 week from today (Thursday, 3 September) we will have our annual Fall Field Day at EREC. There will be tours covering row-crops, new technology, peanut production, cattle production, bull test, and vegetable production. The agenda for the row-crop tour is shown below. Pesticide recertification and CCA credits will be offered for attending this tour.

Row Crops & New Technologies

1. Influence of Planting Date and Seeding Rate on MG IV –VIII Soybeans and Improving Side-dress Nitrogen Application Rates in Corn – Pawel Wiatrak
2. LEPA Irrigation System and Water-use Efficiency of Cotton Varieties – Chris Bellamy/Ahmad Khalilian
3. Sensor-based Management of Nitrogen in Cotton Production– Wes Porter/Ahmad Khalilian
4. Management of Insects in Corn – Francis Reay-Jones
5. Management of Insects in Cotton and Soybeans – Jeremy Greene
6. Weed Management in Liberty-Linked Soybeans – Mike Marshall
7. Conventional Soybeans – Emerson Shipe
8. Soybean Rust Update – Joe Varn

Pest Patrol Hotline

A summary of current problems with insects is available this season via a toll-free hotline. Simply call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Cotton Situation

As of 23 August 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 88% of the bolls set, behind where we were last year at 94% but close to the 5-yr average of 91%. About 5% of bolls have opened, ahead of where we were last year at 3% but behind the 5-yr average of 9%. Conditions were described as 1% excellent, 48% good, 49% fair, 2% poor, and 0% very poor for the crop. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Situation

As of 23 August 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 92% bloomed, about the same as last year at 90% and the 5-yr average of 93%. About 71% of pods are set, ahead of where we were last year at 62% and for the 5-yr average of 61%. About 1% of the crop has turned color,

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behind that observed last year (3%) and the 5-yr average (5%). Conditions were described as 5% excellent, 44% good, 47% fair, 3% poor, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

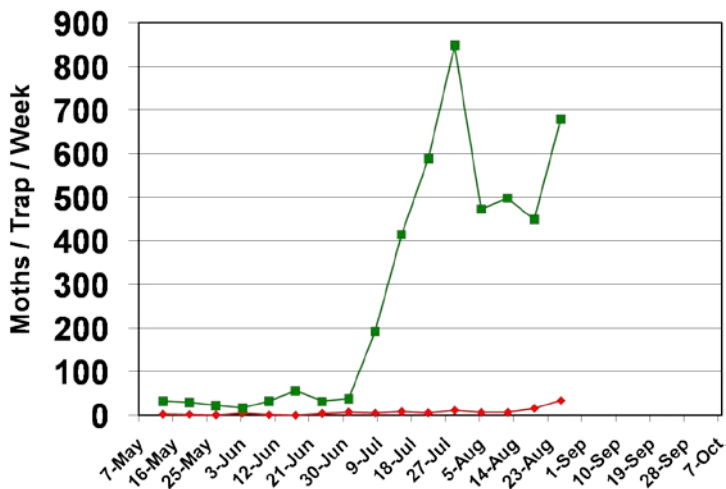
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



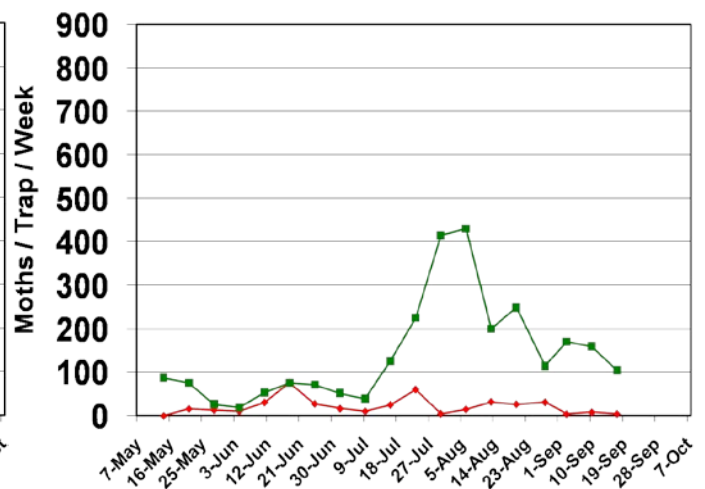
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. We trapped almost 6,800 BW moths in 10 traps this past week to give us about 680/trap/wk. We averaged about 35 TBW moths per trap this past week. Captures of BW moths have increased again, but many fields are getting close to maturity. Continue to check for bollworm escapes in Bollgard, Bollgard II, and WideStrike cotton varieties that are late with a top crop that should be protected. Continue to monitor for BW in soybeans!



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



News from Above the Lakes

A very reliable source reported that he is seeing increasing populations of soybean loopers in places and decreasing populations in others...there seems to be no pattern, as reported last week. He also reported that they are still fighting FAW in hay and pastures, and that brown stink bugs are becoming more noticeable in soybeans.

News from Below the Lakes

Tommy Walker, county agent covering Allendale, Hampton, and Jasper Counties, reported that he is still seeing too many fall armyworms in cotton, particularly in some non-Bt and Bollgard cotton (e.g. DP555). He reported on Tuesday that was seeing FAW numbers easily exceeding 200/100 plants in non-Bt fields with the highest pressure (up to 67 FAW on 1 side of a drop cloth in one spot – that is over 10 per plant!). In some fields of DP555 he was seeing up to about 100 FAW/100 plants. Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and

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Orangeburg Counties, reported that he received a report from a producer experiencing *Dectes* stem borer in soybeans and that it was not a pretty picture. See “*Dectes* Stem Borer in Soybeans” below for more information about this potentially devastating pest.

Dectes Stem Borer in Soybeans

This is a pest that you cannot control with a reactive approach...you must use a proactive approach. There is not a chemical control strategy that I am aware of that will adequately control this insect in soybeans. The only strategies that **prevent** problems with this pest are cultural controls, such as tillage (disking, plowing, bedding, cultivation, etc.) where the crop residue is destroyed and crop rotation. The insects overwinter as larvae in crop residue (i.e. in main stems near the ground) and emerge the following year. In our predominant minimum tillage systems, crop rotation is the only viable option for preventing problems with this pest. Because this pest is associated with repetitive production of soybeans in given fields, problems with *Dectes* stem borer could be on the rise, particularly with increases in soybean acreage.



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Is this Pyrethroid Labeled for Use in Soybeans?

That is a good question to ask yourself now. Some of the pyrethroids that we can use in cotton do not officially have a label for broad use in soybeans. Be sure to check the labels of pyrethroids that you have used in cotton to ensure that they are labeled for use in soybeans. Consult our Soybean Insect Recommendations for a listing of recommended and labeled pyrethroids for use in soybeans, but remember that labels change!

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

2009 SC Cotton Growers' Guide, Pest Management Handbook, and Insect Control Guides

The 2009 South Carolina Cotton Growers' Guide is available from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/EC589.PDF>.

The 2009 Pest Management Handbook is available in limited quantities. Contact your local county office for availability. A \$10 fee might be charged for the handbook. You can also download the handbook from: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Clemson University Publications IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) and SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) are available free from your local county office in paper copy or online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF> and

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following webpage to view important recommendations for cotton and soybean insect management, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Associate Professor – Entomologist



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